



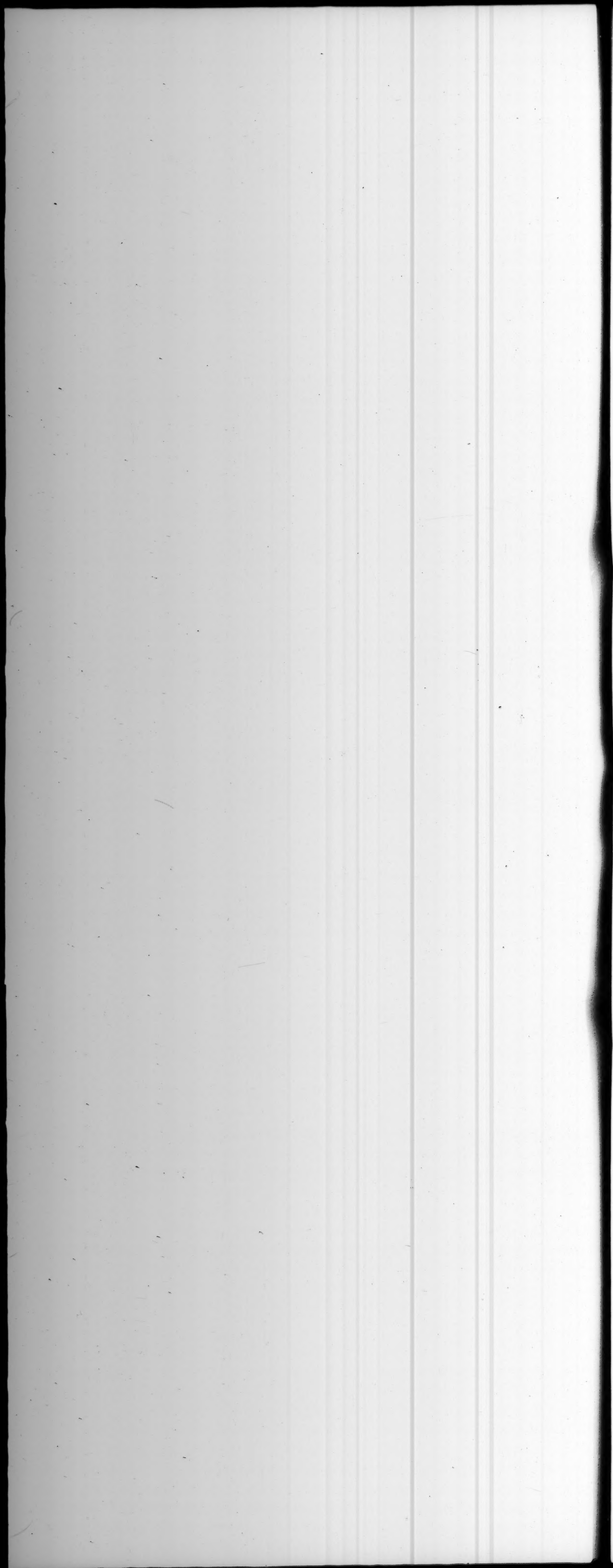
¶ By the King.

¶ A Proclamation for the better incouragement and
aduancement of the Trade of the East-
Indye Company.



HE Kings most Excellent Maiestie, gratiouſly taking into His Princely conſideration the great honour His Maieſtie and His Royall Progenitours and this whole Kingdome haue for diuers years receiued by the erection of the Company of Merchants of London, trading into the Eaſt Indies, being incorporated by His deare Siſter the late Queene Elizabeth, and the ſaid incorporation confirmed by His late deare father King James of famous memory, whereby the native Commodities of this Kingdome are exported, and trade and commerce maintained with the remotest States and Countries, the Kingdome furnished with rich and neceſſary commodities at cheaper prizes then in former times, His Maieſties reuenuē increaſed in his cuſtomes and Subſidies, the number of great and ſerueiceable Ships much multiplied, and many of His Maieſties Subiects of all trades ſet to worke and imployed in manufactures wrought thereof, and a Staple of thoſe Indian commodities ſetled in this Kingdome, and from hence to the further increaſe of Trade and imployment of Shipping transported in other ſorreigne parts: And His Maieſty being now informed, as well by the Gouvernour and others imployed in principall places of truſt for the ſaid Company, as by the Farmers of His Maieſties great Cuſtomes, That many abuſes are lately crept into the ſaid Trade by the practiſe of Officers, Seruants and others imployed by the ſaid Company and their Confederates, in ayming at their owne profits, by driving a ſecret vnderhand Trade, whereby the ſaid Companies generall affaires are of late much declined and decayed, and the aduenturers therein much diſcouraged, and that the ſame is induced by the ſaid ſecret and vnderhand Trade aboard the Shippes both outward bound to the Eaſt Indies, in the Eaſt Indie, and homeward, laden from thence for the ſaid Company in the Narrow Seas and other places vpon the Confinēs of this Kingdome, either after the ſaid Ships outwards bound are diſcharged out of the Harbours of this Kingdome, or before the ſaid Shippes homeward bound can come into any Harbour or other place neere any of His Maieſties Cuſtome houſes, where the particular goods freighted and laden in the ſaid Shippes may be entred, and the Cuſtomes and Duties payed, whereby His Maieſty is defrauded of his Cuſtomes and Subſidies, the ſaid Company of their freight and goods, and whereby the ſaid Trade is diſparaged and brought to diſreputation, and the Aduenturers therein diſcouraged: All which His Maieſty conceiueth to be offences tending to the diſhonour of Himſelfe and this His Kingdome, the diminution of His Reuenuē, and to the overthrow of ſo famous a Trade and eminent a Company, and to deſerue ſeuere Cenſure and exemplary puniſhment.

And His Maieſtie not intending to ſuffer or paſſe by ſuch abuſes, being of ſo dangerous conſequence, doth hereby ſtraightly charge and command, vpon paine of incurring His Highneſſe diſpleaſure, and to be puniſhed as contemners of His Maieſties Royall Proclamation, that no particular man of the ſaid Company nor any of their officers or Seruants, or any other, which now



are, or hereafter shall bee imployed in any of their Shippes, trading into any of the said Easterly parts, or any other person or persons whatsoever, shall from henceforth giue any vnderhand Trade, as aforesaid, either to, in, or from the Indies aforesaid, but such as shall be licensed by the said Company, as by their Acts and Orders in that behalfe grounded vpon their Letters Patents is allowable, and such goods and commodities as shall be so imported, not to bee disposed of vntill the said Company shall haue receiued an accompt and giuen allowance therof, and vntill that their Ships shall haue arriued at, or in the Port of London within this Kingdome; nor that any person or persons whatsoever vpon the paine aforesaid, shall presume to buy, contract, bargain or barter for, or receiue or take any of the goods, wares or Merchandizes, which shall be laden aboard any of the said Ships, so homeward bound, as aforesaid, vntill such Ship or Ships so homeward bound as aforesaid, in, or out of which such goods, wares or Merchandizes shall be so bought, sold, deliuered, contracted or bartred for, be first brought into the said Port of London, and there by the allowance of the said Company be duely entred, and the goods thereout discharged, nor shall giue any assistance, helpe or encouragement for the vnlading of any such goods at any other place, or in any other manner, nor shall otherwise offend in any thing, contrary to the true meaning of these Presents. And his Maiestie being so sensible of the inconueniences that attend vpon the said abuses before mentioned, and intending to haue an absolute reformation thereof, doth therefore hereby straightly charge and command all Admirals, Vice Admirals and other Officers of the Admiralty, and such as haue Admirall Jurisdiction; And all Maiors, Portreues, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, and all other his Officers whom it may concerne, that they and euery of them be carefull to preuent the said offences, and to enquire of such as shall offend therein, and to returne their names to the Lords of his Maiesties most Honourable Priuy Counsell, and to giue true and timely intelligence thereof to the Governour of the Company for the time being, that such course may be taken for the preuention of such abuses, and for the seuerer punishment of all such, who shall presume to contemne or neglect this Our Royall Commandement, either in the Court of Star-chamber, or otherwise, as shall be thought fit. And if it shall at any time hereafter be discovered and made to appeare, that any of his Maiesties said Officers haue beene Actors in these abuses, or any of them, or haue continued at the offences of others, or haue beene negligent in the execution of this his Command and Royall Pleasure; his Maiestie doth hereby declare, that he will not onely extend the paine of his heauy displeasure vpon them, and cause them to be punished seuerely, as aforesaid, but will also hold them vnworthy to serue his Maiestie in any of those places of trust concerning his Reuenue.

Giuen at Our Court at Whitehall, the fifteenth day of February, in the third yeere of Our Raigne of Great Brittain, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.



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